

bed, to be joined shortly afterwards by another female. Both began picking up grey ash in a similar manner as on the previous occasions and continued to do so during the time we were there. The male did not eat ash, but remained in the vicinity - flying from branch to branch in the tree and then down to the ash. These normally shy birds, seemed compelled by their need for the ash and ignored the presence of humans and vehicles. On a visit to the same areas a few weeks later, I found the birds still around, but much quieter and more secretive and may have been nesting.

Samples of ash from the first campsite at Bilyuin Pool were analysed courtesy of Mr. B.H. Goldspink of the Division of Plant Research, Department of Agriculture. The analysis (Table 1) has provided somewhat of a puzzle. The nodules of ash were found to be extremely high in calcium (some 20% dry basis) and gave off a large amount of gas when acid was added suggesting the sample was contaminated with limestone (calcium carbonate). However, as there is no limestone in the area (that I am aware of) and burning of lime would produce an oxide not a carbonate where did the calcium come from?

Table 1: Analysis of ash sample from Bilyuin Pool.

NUTRIENT											
% DRY BASIS							ppm DRY BASIS				
N	P	K	S	Ca	Mg	Na	Fe	Mn	Cu	Zn	
	0.13	0.16		20.15	0.60	0.19		186	19.3	29.0	

The eating of ash by the female birds suggests that they were building up their calcium levels prior to nesting and egg-laying. Further observations are required on this ash-eating behaviour.

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Some reptiles and frogs recorded in Stokes National Park — This park is located on the coast west of Esperance and is centred by Stokes Inlet. There is no published herpetofaunal data on the park. The following list has been compiled from my personal records and substantially enlarged during a recent visit by W.A. Naturalists' Club members in April, 1984. Nomenclature follows Storr (1983 *List of W.A. Frogs and Reptiles*. 4th Edition. Unpubl.).

Frogs: *Heleioporus eyrei*, *Limnodynastes dorsalis*, *Pseudophryne guentheri*, *Litoria cyclorhynchus*.

Reptiles: *Phyllodactylus marmoratus*, *Aprasia repens*, *Delma australis*, *D. fraseri*, *Pygopus lepidopodus*, *Pogona m. minor*, *Cryptoblepharus virgatus clarus*, *Ctenotus labillardieri*, *Egernia kingii*, *Hemiergis peronii*, *Leiopisma trilineatum*, *Lerista distinguenda*, *Menetia greyii*, *Morethia obscura*, *Tiliqua occipitalis*, *T. r. rugosa*, *Varanus rosenbergi*, *Python spilotes imbricatus*, *Notechis coronatus*, *N. curtus*, *N. scutatus occidentalis*, *Pseudonaja a. affinis*, *Rhinoplocephalus nigriceps*.

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Barn Swallows at Learmonth — Between 0640H and 0711H on 25 November 1983, we observed 3 Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) in company with 36 Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) on electricity wires near buildings at Learmonth RAAF Base, 34.5 km south of Exmouth.

On one of the Barn Swallows, the deep russet throat, edged with a thick black band, and white breast were clearly observed from 15m with 10 x 40 binoculars. The other 2 Barn Swallows had light fawn throats with incomplete black throat bands, but were distinctly whiter below than the accompanying Welcome Swallows.

This is the second published record of Barn Swallows in the vicinity of Exmouth, 4 having been observed at the prawn factory, 13.3 km north of Learmonth in September, 1982 (Bourke, 1983: W.A. Nat. 15:168).

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